

SEP 27 2006

Atty. Dkt. No. 023727-1701

Amendments to the Claims/Listing of Claims:

Please amend claims 6, 7 and 26 and add new claim 31 as follows. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1 – 5. (Cancelled)

6. (Currently amended) A latch system for a container, the container including a first section and a second section, the latch system comprising:
a latch pin mounted in the first section; and
a deflectable member mounted in a latch, with the latch pivotally coupled to the latch pin so that the deflectable member is positioned between the latch pin and a portion of the latch;
wherein the latch is structured to removably engage the second section, ~~said latch is not biased with a coil spring~~ and the deflectable member is configured to absorb relative compression movement between the first section and the second section.

7. (Currently Amended) The latch system of claim 6, wherein the deflectable member is structured to resist relative rotational movement between the latch and the latch pin.

8. (Original) The latch system of claim 6, wherein the deflectable member is structured to provide a means for adjusting the force required to pivot the latch about the latch pin.

9. (Original) The latch system of claim 6, wherein the deflectable member is a bushing.

10. (Withdrawn) The latch system of claim 6, wherein the deflectable member is a cylindrical bushing that includes a plurality of deflectable ribs positioned substantially parallel to a longitudinal axis of the cylindrical bushing.

11. (Canceled)

Atty. Dkt. No. 023727-1701

12. (Original) The latch system of claim 6, wherein the latch system secures the first section against the second section so that the container is substantially waterproof and substantially airtight.

13-25. (Cancelled)

26. (Currently amended) A container including a first section and a second section, the container comprising

deflectable latch means for releaseably coupling the first section to the second section and for absorbing relative compression movement between the first and second sections when the first and second sections are coupled together, wherein the deflectable latch means comprises

a latch pin mounted in the first section; and

a deflectable member mounted in a latch, with the latch pivotally coupled to the latch pin so that the deflectable member is positioned between the latch pin and a portion of the latch;

wherein the latch is structured to removably engage the second section, ~~said latch is not biased with a coil spring~~ and the deflectable member is configured to absorb relative compression movement between the first section and the second section.

27-28. (Cancelled)

29. (Previously Presented) The latch system of claim 6, wherein the deflectable member is comprised of a material selected from the group consisting of plastics and rubbers.

30. (Previously Presented) The latch system of claim 6, wherein said deflectable member is comprised of a metal.

31. (New) The latch system of claim 6, wherein the deflectable member is configured to absorb relative compression movement between the first section and the second section by absorbing relative movement between the latch pin and the latch.